



First railroad took 17 years to build

Arnold Walker earns MMR No. 255

Arnold Walker was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba in 1943 and has lived there for most of his life. He and his wife Shelley have been married for 27 years. Arnold attended Red River Community College and received a Diploma in Electronic Technology and after graduation worked for the Manitoba Telephone System in the Engineering Department for 25 years.

Arnold has been a railfan since he received his first Lionel train set at the age of six. For a few years during his early teens he started collecting HO-scale trains and building model railroads on a 4' x 8' sheet of plywood. In 1970 he joined the Winnipeg Model Railroad Club and again became active in model railroading. Shelley claims that they were married under false pretenses since she didn't know of his interest in trains — but she supports his interest in the hobby and encouraged him in his efforts to become a Master Model Railroader.

Arnold's first model railroad, the Northland Route Railway, was built over a period of 17 years and was dismantled in 1990 when the Walker family bought a new home. Now Arnold models both CP

Rail and BC Rail. The new model railroad has approximately 500 feet of track and is fully operational with a large section of mountain scenery. The railroad is mainline running but includes an interchange to a coal mine operation with BC Rail electric locomotives powered by overhead catenary.

Future projects include completing a coal loading facility, a coal unloading facility and developing an operating session for moving coal trains between these facilities.

"It is very satisfying to achieve the award of MMR and I will encourage others to do the same. When I received my first Certificate of Achievement in the early 1980s, I did not have any intention of completing my MMR, but over the years my mentor Stafford Swain, was there to give me encouragement to complete the program," Arnold said.

Arnold has earned Certificates of Achievement as Master Builder of Motive Power, Structures, Scenery, Model Railroad Engineer - Civil and Electrical, Chief Dispatcher, and Association Volunteer.

Congratulations Arnold. •